City	Project	Total cost	Remarks
Mysore	Introduction of BRTS system-(45 km.)	541.71	DPR returned to the city as it contained inconsistencies. Fresh DPR to be submitted as per DPR guidelines circulated by Ministry of Urban Development

Correct estimate of poverty

*607. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the technically correct estimate of poverty in country during 2004-05 as there are two estimates floating around, one of 22 per cent, which is being used generally by the media and Government and another of 27.5 per cent which the Economic Survey states is the one that is comparable to the figure of 36 per cent of 1993-94;

(b) if the latter is correct, whether it is a fact that poverty in the last ten years has reduced more slowly than in the 1980s; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which the figure of 22 per cent is being used by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN): (a) The Planning Commission estimates the incidence of poverty at national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years following the methodology contained in the Report of the Expert Group on Estimation of Proportion and Number of Poor (Lakadawala Committee).

On the basis of the latest large sample survey data on household consumer expenditure (61st Round of NSS), covering the period July, 2004 to June, 2005 [Report No. 508 (61/1.0/1)], two different consumption distributions for the year 2004-05 have been obtained. The first one from

the consumption data collected using 30-day recall period (also known as reference period) for all the items. The other distribution is obtained from the consumer expenditure data collected using 365-day recall period for five infrequently purchased non-food items, namely, clothing, footwear, durable goods, education and institutional medical expenses and 30-day recall period for the remaining items. These two consumption distributions have been termed as Uniform Recall Period (URP) consumption distribution and Mixed Recall Period (MRP) consumption distribution respectively. The Planning Commission, using the Expert Group methodology has estimated poverty in 2004-05 using both the distributions.

The URP-consumption distribution data of the 61st Round yields a poverty ratio of 27.5 percent in 2004-05. The corresponding figure obtained from the MRP-consumption distribution data of the 61st Round is 21.8 percent.

The poverty estimate in 2004-05 based on URP consumption distribution (27.5 percent) is comparable with the poverty estimates of 1993-94, which was 36 percent and the poverty estimate in 2004-05 based on MRP consumption distribution (21.8 percent) is roughly (but not strictly) comparable with the poverty estimates of 1999-2000, which was 26.1 percent. Since both the URP and MRP consumption distribution data have been treated to the Expert Group methodology to estimate poverty, both the estimates are technically correct.

(b) The annual average rate of reduction of poverty is about 0.8 percentage point for both the 1980s (1983 to 1993-94) and the last eleven years (1993-94 to 2004-05) based on URP consumption distribution.

(c) The percentage of poor based on MRP consumption distribution (21.8%) is made in order to make a comparable assessment of poverty of 2004-05 with that of 1999-2000.

Difference between tariff rates of courier services

†*609. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.